

REMARKS

Consideration of the present application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 remain in this application. Claim 9 has been withdrawn. Claims 1-15 have been amended. Claim 16 is added by this Amendment.

In the Office action mailed September 29, 20008 the Examiner required restriction between Claims 1-8 (Group I), drawn to a method of customized contact lens and said lens, and Claims 9-15 (Group II) drawn to an apparatus for exposing photoresist layers.

Responsive thereto, Applicants elect to prosecute the claims of Group I, without traverse and without prejudice to, inter alia, Applicants' right to pursue the withdrawn claims, as well as further product-by-process and/or generic claims, in a divisional application. Claim 9 is withdrawn. Claims 10-15 are amended to depend from new Claim 16.

New Claim 16 incorporates the special technical features of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the Claims of this application

as amended, with the addition of new Claim 16, relate to one invention only or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single general inventive concept as set forth in PCT Rule 13.1.

In particular, MPEP 1850, III A states (emphasis added) :

The method for determining unity of ***invention under PCT Rule 13 shall be construed as permitting***, in particular, the inclusion of any one of the following combinations of claims of different categories in the same international application:

...
(B) In addition to an independent claim for a given process, ***an independent claim for an apparatus or means specifically designed for carrying out the said process***; or

...
A process is specially adapted for the manufacture of a product if it inherently results in the product and an apparatus or means is specifically designed for carrying out a process if the contribution over the prior art of the apparatus or means corresponds to the contribution the process makes over the prior art.

...
The Title and Abstract have been amended to put them in better U.S. form.

Claims 1-7 and 9-15 have also been amended to better conform to U.S. practice, such as by beginning the dependent claims with 'The' instead of 'A', changing "characterized in that" to "wherein" and changing the

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spelling of "mould" to "mold." The Claims were not amended in order to address issues of patentability.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If any informalities remain, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned in order to expedite allowance.

Please charge any fee deficiencies and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

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